(d) While all efforts are made to expedite the clearance of power projects, approval of power projects depends upon several factors including comprehensiveness of project reports, expeditious response of the project authorities to various comments/observations of the Central Electricity Authority|Central Water Commission, availabiliy of various inputs and clearances such as fuel availability, water availability, environment and forest clearance, clearance from State Pollution Control Board and National Airports Authority, etc. and the relative priority accorded by the State Government to the projects in terms of allocation of funds in the State's Annual Plan, resolution of inter-state disputes in sharing of water resources. It is not, therefore, feasible to indicate the exact time frame in which these projects would be approved.

Dharna by NPCC workers in New Delhi

1467. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of workers of National Project Construction Corporation (NPCC) have been on 'Dharna' in front of their corporate office in Nehru Place, New Delhi for the last two years protesting against various illegal actions of the management;

(b) whether Government are aware that the workers have decided to intensify their agitation from 7th August, 1989 by way of 'Mass Dharna' not only by the workers but also by their family members; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to intervene for an amicable settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) Some ex-workers of the National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), who were retrenched or whose services were terminated, have been assembling in various numbers before the NPCC's Corporate office since September, 1987, under the banner of All Indian NPCC Employees Federation. In none of the Court cases, filed against the Corporation, actions of the NPCC relating to retrenchment/termination of service have been reversed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) NPCC Management invited the Unions a number of times to a joint negotiating forum to discuss their charter of demands but no headway could be made in the discussions due to pre-conditions set by the Federation. The last meeting was fixed by the Management for 3rd July, 1989 but the Federation did not attend.

Irregularities committed in KVIC

1468. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the audit team of Khadi Gramodyog Commission pointed out that Khadi Mandir, Bikaner had indulged in various types of irregularities and corrupt practices and the Certification Section of KVIC had also cancelled the certification etc. of Khadi Mandir, Bikaner;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the present Chief Administrative Officer, Shri I. S. Rao issued instructions to the Jaipur Directorate to continue the existing facilities to Khadi Mandir, Bikaner;

(d) whether this was against the audit report; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the steps taken to implement audit report in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.